

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Fire Chief Certification

The Capstone of the California Fire Service Career Ladder

The process of certifying firefighters has its roots in the creation of the *Study of a Fireman's Occupation*, a series of documents that were initiated in the 1920s and modified many times over the following decades. In California, the certification system reached a critical point with the adoption of the *Master Plan of Training and Education* in the early 1970s. Once the certification process had been implemented for Firefighter I, a career ladder process began to evolve that produced several generations of fire service leaders. However, even with this career ladder, a capstone to the certification experience was missing.

The State Board of Fire Services recognized in the early 1990s that the missing element was a process that would recognize the skill levels necessary to be a fire chief. A study was conducted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) - Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in cooperation with the League of California Cities to determine what those skill sets were. The analysis resulted in the creation of an application process that combined education, experience, and practical application into a career profile. This process was adopted by the State Board of Fire Services and given the title of "Fire Chief Certification". Shortly after California's initial effort in this area, the Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) instituted a similar process at the international level. The California application process was submitted for consideration and adoption by Center for Public Safety Excellence (CPSE). Both the State of California and the national process have evolved and now mirror one another. CAL FIRE - OSFM has entered into a reciprocity agreement with the CPSE so that candidates from California would achieve recognition at the national level. This reciprocity agreement has been exercised to encourage a high level of professional mobility.

The Chief Fire Officer Certification Program sits as a capstone for the certification and qualification system. It should be considered as a goal for upward mobility in the fire service. Its achievement by an individual is a highly desired qualification. The OSFM would like to recognize those fire service professionals who have achieved Fire Chief Certification; those individuals are:

Fire Chief Certification Awarded to

#000037

Ronny J. Coleman
August 12, 1998
#000001

Scott Kenley
August 12, 1998
#000002

Jeff Bowman
August 12, 1998
#000003

John Steven Brown
August 12, 1998
#000004

P. Michael Freeman
August 12, 1998
#000005

Dale T. Geldert
August 12, 1998
#000006

Neil Honeycutt
August 12, 1998
#000007

Ron Myers
February 3, 2000
#000008

Gary Lockhart
February 3, 2000
#000009

Hugh Holden
February 3, 2000
#000010

Marc J. Boomgaarden
January 30, 2001
#000011

Vernon A. Losh
January 30, 2001
#000012

Peter M. Bryan
July 20, 2001
#000013

Marc Revere
November 19, 2002
#000014

William R. Sager
June 2, 2003
#000015

Jeffery Meston
August 23, 2003
#000016

Michael Dyer
September 13, 2005
#000017

John R. Hawkins
June 14, 2006
#000018

Richard Price
July 25, 2009
#000019

Michael Smith
August 12, 2010
#000020

Michael Macey
October 21, 2010
#000021

Randy Bruegman
September 8, 2011
#000022

Gregory Granados
September 8, 2011
#000023

Samuel Mazza
January 25, 2012
#000024

#000025

#000026

#000027

#000028

#000029

#000030

#000031

#000032

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